

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 192242
ORIGIN ORM-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192242

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ICEM

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR
EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM)

1. IN 1976 THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT INFORMED ICEM OF ITS
INTENTION TO WITHDRAW AS A MEMBER BY THE END OF LAST YEAR .
DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE GOS AND THE ICEM
DIRECTOR AND AMBASSADOR STABLER WAS KIND ENOUGH TO RAISE
THE MATTER WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. AN ACCOMMODATION
WAS REACHED AND SPAIN RETAINED ITS MEMBERSHIP BY SUSPENDING
WRITTEN NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL. IT HAS HAPPENED AGAIN AND
A NEW LETTER WAS FORWARDED FROM THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN
GENEVA TO THE ICEM DIRECTOR INFORMING THE LATTER THAT SPAIN
WOULD WITHDRAW BY DECEMBER 31, 1977, BUT WISHED TO MAINTAIN
OBSERVER STATUS. NO REASON WAS GIVEN BUT THERE WAS AN
EXPRESSION TO CONTINUE COOPERATION IN MATTERS OF MUTUAL
INTEREST. THE ICEM DIRECTOR HAS AGAIN ASKED US FOR OUR
HELP AND IS SEEKING SIMILAR ASSISTANCE FROM BELGIUM, ITALY,
THE FRG AND THE NETHERLANDS.

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2. THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT KNOW WHAT, IF ANYTHING, CAN BE
DONE AT THIS STAGE. A FURTHER INTERVENTION BY THE EMBASSY
MIGHT DO SOME GOOD AND ADVICE ON THIS WOULD BE MOST HELP-
FUL. THERE ARE INDEED A NUMBER OF ARGUMENTS FOR SPAIN RE-
MAINING IN THE COMMITTEE. ICEM CONTINUES TO PROVIDE A
VALUABLE SERVICE FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS. IT HAS THE

CAPACITY TO TRANSLATE THE EXPRESSION OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS INTO PROGRAMS OF ACTION. SPAIN IS INTERESTED AND HAS SUPPORTED OVER THE YEARS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR BOTH GROUPS OF PEOPLE. IT HAS BEEN VERY MUCH INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM OF SELECTED MIGRANTS TO LATIN AMERICA AND WILL HAVE CONTINUED CONCERN FOR REFUGEES FROM CUBA.

3. THESE ARE SOME PRACTICAL ASPECTS WHICH HAVE CONSIDERABLE BEARING ON THE SPANISH DECISION. IN 1976 ICEM SPENT \$567,000 FOR OPERATIONS IN SPAIN AND A FURTHER \$208,000 FOR SPANISH NATIONALS ON THE ICEM STAFF IN OFFICES OUTSIDE SPAIN. AN AMOUNT OF \$417,000 WAS PAID TO SPANISH FLAG CARRIERS FOR AIR AND SEA TRANSPORT AND \$36,000 WAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR MIGRANTS FROM SPAIN. SERVICES TO MIGRANTS FROM SPAIN WHO SETTLE IN LATIN AMERICA COST ABOUT \$500,000 ANNUALLY. THE GOS CONTRIBUTED TO ICEM IN 1976 \$94,600 TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET AND \$253,600 TO THE OPERATIONAL BUDGET. CLEARLY THERE WAS A NET FINANCIAL ADVANTAGE TO SPAIN. THERE WERE ALSO HUMANITARIAN BENEFITS FOR WHICH NO ACCURATE MEASUREMENT EXISTS. THE QUESTION ARISES AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE DECISION MAKING LEVEL OF THE GOS IS ACQUAINTED WITH THESE FACTS.

4. THE USG CONTINUES TO FIND ICEM A MOST USEFUL ORGANIZATION WHICH HAS WELL SERVED ITS MEMBERS. IT HAS BEEN
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PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN MOVING REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS OUT OF EUROPE AND MORE RECENTLY IN TRANSFERRING THOUSANDS OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM EAST ASIA. OUR AIM IS TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATION AND A WITHDRAWAL BY ANY MEMBER SERVES JUST THE OPPOSITE OBJECTIVE. SPAIN HAS PLAYED A SPECIAL LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONG THE SPANISH SPEAKING MEMBERS. WE WOULD VERY MUCH BEGRET THE WITHDRAWAL. IF SPAIN DOES DECIDE TO STICK TO ITS DECISION TO OBTAIN OBSERVER STATUS, IT MUST BE BORNE IN MIND THAT ANY SERVICES REQUESTED OF ICEM IN THE FUTURE MUST BE FULLY REIMBURSED PLUS A SERVICE FEE OF 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL COST OR \$30 FOR EACH MOVEMENT ARRANGED.

5. EMBASSY VIEWS ON THE FOREGOING WILL BE APPRECIATED ALONG WITH ANY MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO REVERSE THE GOS DECISION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, COMMITTEES, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE192242
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GLWARREN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770293-0004
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